

CSC RECURRING THEMES  
AY2010-2011

- **That the character of war changes over time but the nature of war is constant and enduring**
  - Enduring issues of politics, civil-military relations, economics, leadership and morale, etc. Related to the importance of military history and its value to the modern warfighter.
  - Evolving issues captured in the construct of traditional, irregular, disruptive and catastrophic warfare, as well as the notion of “hybrid” warfare (some combination of all four characteristics).
  - The roles of military theory, the principles of war and of technological change (“generational” warfare) in shaping war.
- **That social and cultural factors shape the way that nations (and non-state actors) use force or threaten the use of force to achieve political objectives**
  - Central to the understanding of the *context* within which warfighting occurs.
- **That consistent success in war and in peace requires the integrated application of all instruments of national power**
  - Encompasses discussions of the instruments of national power (Diplomatic, Informational, Military and Economic – “DIME”) and of the interagency process through which these elements are employed to achieve national objectives.
  - Includes an understanding of the tangible/intangible limits on the employment of military power.
- **That effective warfighters understand the complex and dynamic interrelationships between the levels of war – strategic, operational, and tactical – and the political objectives to be obtained**
  - Points to the impact of domestic policymaking (“politics”) on the employment of national power to achieve strategic objectives.
  - Includes an understanding of the linkages between the political *object* and strategic (military) *objectives*, as well as the interrelationship between the three levels of war.
  - Actions at the tactical-level can affect national policy/strategy (“Strategic Corporal”)
- **That the essence of the *operational art* is the design, planning and execution of joint/coalition campaigns to achieve theater-strategic objectives**
  - Inherent advantages (and challenges) of joint, multinational and interagency warfare.
  - Includes an understanding that individual battles, engagements and major operations must serve the larger objective(s) of the campaign.
  - Encompasses everything from campaigning writ large down to mastery of the various elements of the Marine Corps Planning Process (MCPPE).
- **That the concept of *combined arms*, expanded to include both kinetic and non-kinetic effects, remains the key to success on the modern battlefield**
  - Encompasses everything from the integrated employment of all elements of national power (at the strategic level) down to the application of both lethal and non-lethal fires at the operational/tactical levels of war.
  - Objective remains to place the enemy (or potential enemy) on the “horns of a dilemma.”
  - Includes an understanding of the synergy of the MAGTF and the essential role of each sub element therein.
- **That “human factors” dominate war and conflict and, consequently, the subjects of leadership, morality, ethics, and the art of command are central to an understanding of the profession of arms**
  - Broad objectives of the leadership aspect of the curriculum are included here, as well as critical thinking, communication, negotiation skills, etc.